

Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /054 W

----- 002156

R 050600Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3127

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 1264

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, JO

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN VISIT TO DAMASCUS

1. APRIL 4 DAMASCUS PRESS FRONT-PAGED KING HUSSEIN'S SEVEN HOUR VISIT TO DAMASCUS APRIL 3. VISIT HAD NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE HERE AND ARAB AMBASSADORS, NORMALLY SUMMONED TO AIRPORT WELCOMING CEREMONIES FOR OFFICIAL ARAB HEAD OF STATE VISITS, WERE NOT NOTIFIED IN THIS INSTANCE. KING'S DELEGATION ACCORDING TO PRESS INCLUDED PRINCE MUHAMMED, PM RIFAI, COS MAJ. GEN. BIN SHAKER, AND MAJ. GEN. AWWAD AL-KHALID, MILITARY SECRETARY OF KING. DELEGATION WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY PRESIDENT ASAD, PM AYYOUBI, FONMIN KHADDAM, DEP PM HAYDAR, DEFMIN TLAS, COS SHIHABI, AND DEP DEFMIN NAJI JAMIL. HUSSEIN MET PRIVATELY WITH ASAD FOR TWO AND ONE-QUARTER HOURS, DURING WHICH THEY REVIEWED GENERAL ARAB SITUATION AND BILATERAL RELATIONS. FOLLOWING MEETING ASAD GAVE LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF THE KING. DELEGATION

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DEPARTED DAMASCUS EARLY EVENING.

2. COMMENT: VISIT OF KING FOLLOWS LAST MONTH'S
VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER RIFAI, WHICH LAID GROUNDWORK
FOR BROAD IMPROVEMENT SYRIAN-JORDANIAN RELATIONS.
PROMINENCE OF MILITARY FIGURES ON BOTH DELEGATIONS
SUGGESTS THAT MILITARY ISSUES WERE A CENTRAL TOPIC
OF DISCUSSION.

PELLETREAU

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